

# Lake Merritt **United Methodist Church**



An Inclusive Christian Community of Oakland

*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation, making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

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## *"Daring to Face Ourselves"*

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August 4, 2024  
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

OPENING PRAYER (*RESPONSIVE*)

Marlene Yamashita

Leader: Let us step away from all that glitters and distracts us from what is true and good.

**People: Lead us not into temptation.**

Leader: Let us find strength and encouragement in this gathered community.

**People: Lead us not into temptation.**

Leader: Let us allow God's word to once again center us and refocus our priorities.

**People: Lead us not into temptation.**

**All: Let us worship God. Amen.**

amumc.org (adapt)

OPENING SONG

(Please stand if able)

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

UMH 382

1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after thy will,  
while I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Savior today!  
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,  
as in thy presence humbly I bow.
3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!
4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.  
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Margaret LeWright

Let us search and examine our ways, and return to the Lord!

Matthew 26:41 (NIV)

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing,  
but the flesh is weak.

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## SERMON

## Daring to Face Ourselves

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

## MY JOURNEY

Yvette Bravo

## COMMUNITY PRAYER

**Serenity Prayer**

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;

trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
forever in the next. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

## HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Sunae Cho, *Pastor*

## INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## CONFESSION & PARDON (*UNISON*)

**All: Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**We have broken your law,**

**We have rebelled against your love,**

**We have not loved our neighbors,**

**And we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SILENCE IS KEPT FOR PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & HOPE

Pastor: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while you were yet sinners;

That proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,  
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through the prophet.

And so,  
with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-b)

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
In remembrance of me.”

And so,  
In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
As a holy and living sacrifice,  
In union with Christ’s offering for us,  
As we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-c)

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

**Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,  
now and forever.

(Please sing along, TFWS 2257-d)

**All: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)

\* Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.

*Our \*Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

## SHARING IN THE BREAD AND CUP

### UNISON PRAYER

**All: Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days  
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## OFFERING & THANKSGIVING

### In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

TFWS 2195 (x2)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

## LIVING AS THE CHURCH

### CLOSING SONG

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee

(Please stand if able)

TFWS 2158

1. I am weak, but thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

3. When my feeble life is o'er,  
time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er  
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Just a closer walk with thee,  
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee:  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

## CLOSING PRAYER (*UNISON*)

Marlene Yamashita

All: This morning, and all mornings,  
we faced the day...  
daunted by expectations others placed upon us,  
weighed down by burdens,  
unsure of outcomes,  
opposed,  
tempted,  
alone,  
afraid.  
Jesus, remind us that you faced all this  
and more,  
so that we might look deep within ourselves,  
loosen the chains that bind us, and  
rise above and beyond  
the troubles of this world,  
to know peace in your embrace. Amen.

faithandworship.com (adapt)

## POSTLUDE

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Abigail L. Johnson